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Children's centre gets a glowing report

A CHILDREN'S Centre in Southend has been rated as 'Outstanding'.

Summercourt Children's Centre, in Summercourt Road, Westcliff, received the award from Ofsted.

Inspector Mary Dudley said: "This happy, vibrant centre in the heart of the community provides excellent support to the families it serves."

The Centre, launched in 2007 in the grounds of Milton Hall Primary School and Nursery, catering for 537 children aged from birth to five.

It is run by Milton Hall Primary School and Nursery.



OUTSTANDING: Megan Cody - Centre staff and outreach worker; Karen Cloke - Learning Support Assistant and school link; Fiona Fraser - Deputy Manager; Tanzila Manzoor - Centre staff; Frances Gibson - Family Support Worker; Eleanor King - Centre Staff and breastfeeding support advisor

COUNCIL QUIDS IN OVER PARKING CHARGES

By Paul Giles

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND Council has made more than £22 million from car parking charges in the last five years.

The authority has also clawed in more than £3 million in parking fines over the same time period.

Southend council's group manager for highways and traffic management, Mehmet Mazhar, defended the high amount of money being charged, and claimed parking enforcement was just one way the authority delivered transport strategies in the town.

He said: "It ensures that motorists increasingly comply with parking restrictions."

"However, any revenue generated from penalty charges, permit and ticket fees is used to offset the costs of providing and effective parking management service for the benefit of the wider community of Southend."

"It also ensures improved road safety, and helps keep traffic moving on the highway network so residents directly benefit from this."

The cost of parking fines rocketed to £777,865 in 2009 / 2010 from £501,602 in 2007 to 2008.

Money the council gained through parking charges and fines is used specifically for maintaining on and off street parking, road

surfaces, markings, signs and pay and display machines.

Some of the money is used to pay the people processing the fines and keeping car parks clean and tidy.

Mr Mazhar added: "Many factors could have

contributed to the increase in payments for penalty charges."

"However, without investigating the particular circumstances surrounding each penalty charge notice incurred and analysing the results, it would be impossible to substantiate the reason."

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INSIDE this week



**Trek for
charity**

page 6

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Screenings of the film will take place at the Resort's Imagination Theatre from March 15, 2013, and the film's hero, Laval the Lion Prince, will be standing guard at the cinema entrance in the form of a 1.2m tall LEGO® model. A Laval Minifigure costume character will also be making regular appearances across



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Calls cost 51p from a BT landline. Calls from other networks may vary and from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of



your message.

Lines close on Thursday, March 7, 2013. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

Terms & Conditions

Tickets are valid for one visit between March 15 and November 4, 2013, for up to four people. If less than four use the ticket the extra place/s are forfeited. If you are using these tickets to attend on an event day please ensure that you arrive early to guarantee entry. Visit its website for opening dates and times as the Resort will be closed on some Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the season. Height restrictions apply on some rides.

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Swimmers take icy plunge

SWIMMERS braving the chilly waters of the Estuary for charity will be rewarded with a full English breakfast at Havens Hospices' coldest fundraiser.

The 'Dare to Dip' event is being held by Havens Hospices and is its first ice water swim along the shores of Southend.

The temperature of the water will be between three and eight degrees, when the estuary is at its coldest. Events fundraiser, Jason Curtis dunked himself in the sea in January to test it out and said although it was freezing, he found it refreshing.

Mr Curtis, said: "Open water swimming has become really popular in the UK and ice-swimming takes it to the next level.

"We're lucky to have the sea on our doorstep and to bring such a unique event to the town. "My advice for anyone taking part is to wear lots of layers and just go for it."

Dippers can choose from the extreme 25m or the ultimate 50m and thirdly, recommended for experienced cold water swimmers only; the insanity 100m.

Jason added, "We love putting on these events and hope everyone has a great time but we're doing it because we have to raise £100,000 every week - and we can't do it alone. "Please, if you're happier watching from the shoreline, dip into your pockets instead and sponsor those who are mad enough to feel the freeze."

Registration for Dare to Dip closes on Saturday, March 2 and costs £30.

Places can be booked online at havenshospices.org.uk/daretodip or call Jason on 01702 220356.



DIP: Take part in Haven Hospices' Dare to Dip event.

Picture by Mark Cleveland

➤ speedread

Three arrested after violence

ESSEX Police arrested three men in connection with football violence as part of their operation in the run up to the match between Southend United and Leyton Orient.

Two men, aged 22 and 20, from Southend and one man, aged 21, from Grays, were arrested at their home addresses on the morning of the match, Wednesday, February 20, on suspicion of affray.

They were all taken to police stations and questioned about an incident of disorder in a pub in Leytonstone, in London, on Saturday, January 26.

Classic TV show comes to the pier

THE Trotter family living room will be recreated at the end of Southend Pier from Tuesday, April 2, until Monday, April 15.

The iconic yellow van will also be there with original costumes and props from the series.

It will cost visitors £1 to get in the cultural centre to view the pieces.

Shopping centre to celebrate

THE ROYALS Shopping Centre will be celebrating its 25th birthday with a free fashion show.

The centre was the first undercover collection of retail units in the High Street, when it was opened in March, 1988.

Centre manager Dawn Jeakings, said, the centre had been popular with shoppers.

She said: "The Royals has become somewhere they love, trust and keep coming back too."

To celebrate the birthday the centre will host a free Spring Fashion event on Saturday, March 2, from 12pm until 4pm.

Application to build new cafe in old Leigh

AN application to build a cafe and shellfish shop on the grounds of the Peter Boat beer garden have been submitted to Southend Council.

It proposes to replace the current shellfish stall with a larger building to house the Ivy Osborne Cafe and Shellfish Stall that will have seating inside.

As well as the fish stall it could sell teas, coffees and snacks.

A spokesman from the East Anglia Pub Company who has put the application in said it was the second revised application the company had submitted.

He said: "The design and materials have been formulated to sit in harmony with the surrounding area

borrowing elements from the cockle shed buildings that from many of the fundamental features of Old Leigh.

"We believe the proposals contain well thought out developments to supplement and contribute towards the current facilities and vitality the Old Town offers."

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Book festival launched at library

By Paul Giles

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND library has celebrated the launch of its book festival.

Now in its eighth year, the event will see a series of authors visiting the library to hold talks with people about their craft and how they come about writing their stories.

Called Explore 8 in homage to its age, the festival will run throughout the month of March.

It will see Lesley Pearse, who has sold more than seven million books in attendance.

International writer Dorothy Koomson, who has penned eight novels will also be at the library.

Chef Laura Amos will put on a display cooking some of her desserts from her cook book.

Two famous writers will also grace the festival in the shape of comedian novelist Jenny Eclair and former Lord Chancellor, Jack Straw.

Local writers Claire Freedman, and Dee Gordon, will be holding workshops for children and adults.

Dee Gordon, who is a local history writer said she would be holding an adult workshop on Saturday, March 23.

She said: "The workshop is going to be dependant on the amount of people that turn up.

"I will cover a mix of things ranging from non-fiction, short stories and maybe some poetry as well.

"If people have an idea of what they want to write about I can work with that.

"I have been to work shop events before and we were given a photo of a baby to write about.

"No one was there to write about a baby, so I am giving people the option of what they want to write about along with a talk on publishing and how to get your work out there."

To find out more about the festival visit www.southend.gov.uk all event will be held in Southend central Library.



BOOKS: Author Dee Gordon

Picture by Mark Cleveland

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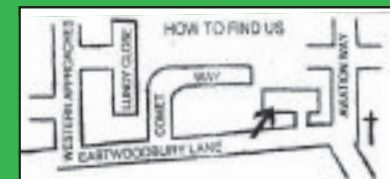
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Tale of a Victorian sensation

TRANSVESTITE prostitutes will take centre stage at an Essex Book Festival event in two weeks.

Author Neil McKenna will appear at Chelmsford Library to discuss his new book, 'Fanny and Stella'.

The non-fiction book recounts the sensational trial of two young men arrested in women's clothes outside the Strand Theatre in 1870.

The court case, which lifted the curtain on the aristocracy's links to cross-dressing prostitutes, dominated the tabloids of the day.

"It became a Victorian sensation," says Neil. "It was like lifting a stone and seeing a kind of strange life you never really suspected was there; drag queens, aristocrats, boarding houses, part-time prostitutes and boiled sheep lungs used as artificial breasts."

He happened upon the story of Ernest Boulton (Stella) and Frederick Park (Fanny) — two wannabe actors who made ends meet by selling their bodies — while researching his previous book 'The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde', released in 2003. Neil said: "It's almost a celebration of a life that has disappeared; the life of a Victorian drag queen."

"There was a bit of criminality involved and it is sad in places but really, it's about the sheer joy of being Fanny and Stella."

"They were remarkable and brave. The penalties for leading the lives they did were severe — 10 years to life, with hard labour. "Hard labour was a death sentence. You wouldn't last much more than four years."

Neil pieced the story together from court transcripts, letters, legal documents and contemporaneous media reports.

His research brought him to Chelmsford, where Frederick Park once worked for Gepp and Sons Solicitors and the pair would often tour their theatre productions.

It was at the Essex Records Office that he unearthed the only surviving photographs of the drag duo.

Neil believes his painstaking research could



TALE: Neil McKenna

even lead to an alteration in the Oxford English Dictionary.

He explained: "The OED lists the first known use of the word 'camp' in 1909, but I found a letter from Stella, written in 1868, where she refers to her 'campish undertakings'."

'Fanny and Stella' has garnered far more attention than Neil expected.

He said: "I'm surprised, delighted and also very grateful that so many people beyond the gay community are reading such a gloriously, defiantly gay book."

Although the book is now on shelves, Neil said he would still love to hear from anyone with stories about Fanny and Stella's Essex exploits.

Neil can be contacted through his website, www.neilmckennawriter.com

He will appear at Chelmsford Library on Thursday, March 14, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available by calling 01206 573948.

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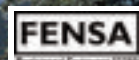
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Regeneration to get boost?

SOUTHEND'S regeneration could be sped up if the town is given new planning powers through the Government's City Deal Scheme.

The authority has been earmarked as one of the 20 areas which will have the chance to have more of a say on planning and financial matters.

The scheme allows local councils to take decisions currently made by central Government and could cut down on the amount of red tape the council has to deal with speeding up the process of regeneration.

Leader of Southend Council, Nigel Holdcroft, said being nominated was great news.

He said: "In the first wave of this scheme last autumn eight cities were chosen, so we are more than pleased we have been chosen in the second wave.

"We have put forward a proposal to Government and it has been successful.

"Over the next few months we will be talking to Government about our proposals.

"The bespoke part of the bid is about regeneration."

Buildings that may become focuses in town may include derelict tower blocks in Victoria Avenue, and Victoria House being turned into flats or offices.

Cllr Holdcroft added Southend could become a pioneer in regeneration for other local authorities in the UK.

He said: "We don't know the final details, but it may give us the opportunity to drive forward regeneration and create employment and investment in the borough."

Fundraisers' gruelling trek

A BRAVE adventurer will be trekking through the jungle to raise money for charity.

Kerry Whitelegg, from Southend, is heading to Asia this Friday to start an eight day trek through the Borneo jungle before taking part in a race to the summit of Mount Kinabalu.

The 26-year-old will be joined on the charity expedition by her Dad Peter Whitelegg, 47, from Stockport and family friend 26-year-old Dan Bacon, who comes from Hockley.

They will trek through more than 30km of jungle on foot, on mountain bikes, kayaks and white water rafts before the gruelling 4,100m climb up the highest mountain in South East Asia.

Dan said: "We're all really looking forward to the challenge and have been cramming in as much training as possible, including a very cold, muddy walk around Hadleigh Castle Park. I'm not sure that's going to prepare us for doing it in the 40 degrees heat though."

The three brave adventurers are taking part in the charity expedition in a bid to raise £10,000 for Faye's Wish, the Institute of Cancer Research and Havens Hospices.

They have been rigorously training since October, but also found the time to put on some fundraising events and have already raised more than £4,000 for their chosen charities.

Kerry said: "We feel really fortunate to all be in good enough health to undertake such a physical



TREK: Kerry Whitelegg and Dan Bacon.

challenge, so we wanted to raise money for charities who work to change the lives of seriously ill people, through care and research. The three of us have each visited or experienced the care that hospices provide and think the work they do is incredible!"

The three adventurers will each have to undergo a day of jungle survival training before being flown into the jungle by helicopter before being pitted against ten other teams.

They will have to face 40 degrees heat, 90 per



Picture by Mark Cleveland

cent humidity and tropical downpours.

Laura Hyde, from Havens Hospices, said: "Running, kayaking and white water rafting all before climbing one of the highest mountains in the world? They must be mad!"

If you would like to sponsor the team please log onto www.kinabalu2013.co.uk

To find out about fundraising challenges for Havens Hospices please call Laura on 01702 220308, e-mail lhyde@havenshospices.org.uk or visit www.havenshospices.org.uk

Borough's bid to become City of Culture

SOUTHEND Council will be bidding to become a City of Culture in 2017.

The authority missed out on becoming a City of Culture this year with the award going to Derry instead.

Southend Councillor for culture

and tourism, Derek Jarvis, said he thought that Southend would be a good contender to receive the status.

He said: "We will be putting a bid in to become the City of Culture.

"We put so much work in last year we don't want to waste the work we have done already.

"It is part of the cultural proposal we are putting together for 2020 that will see an increase in cultural events going on in and around the town.

"We have a series of aims we want to achieve by that date and becoming a City of Culture is one of those.

"So far it has been big cities that

have got the award like Derry and Glasgow, but as a smaller town I think we can achieve it.

"We have a lot of support from the Arts Council in the town through Metal so I am hoping we will get it."

The bid for 2017 has to be completed by Thursday, February 28.

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Call for council transparency

A COUNCILLOR is calling for Southend Council to be more transparent.

Independent councillor, Richard Morgan, said he feels documents and agendas being presented to members of the council are being written so questions cannot be asked about the finances of the authority.

Cllr Morgan said: "I have had a couple of occasions recently where documents I am given about issues I am going to vote on don't make sense.

"Some of the documents have next to no information so I don't know how councillors can vote on issues if they are not presented with the full information.

"I can't make democratic decisions for the people I represent, if that is classed as democracy, I want to know what form it is.

"What I have been presented for the forthcoming budget is confusion. I think it is designed to be confusing so people don't stick their noses into the financial running of the town."

Cllr Morgan also said that officers can be prone to using more words than is necessary, a practice known as pleonasm.

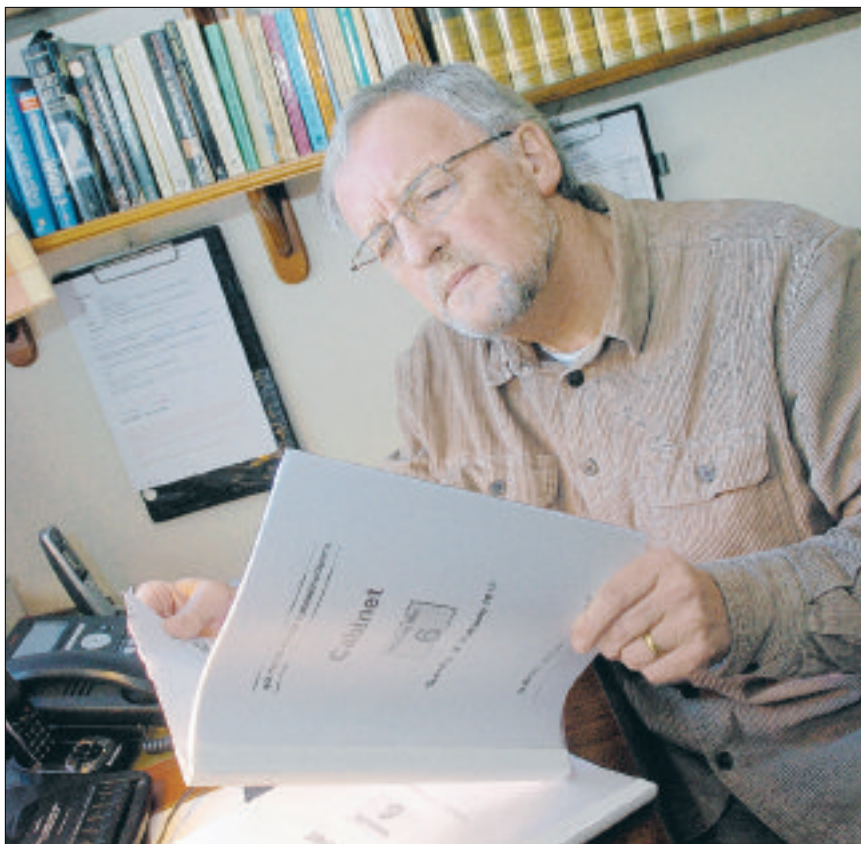
A spokesman for Southend Council dismissed Cllr Morgan's claims.

Head of communications, Joanna Ruffle, said: "We produce our council agendas and reports using a standard format.

"The reports are presented with clear headings and sufficient detail to ensure that informed decisions can be made.

"These reports are prepared by council officers who specialise in the relevant area being covered.

"We make every effort to ensure the information given can be clearly understood, especially where the subject matter being covered is highly technical in nature."



CONFUSED: Councillor Richard Morgan.

Picture by Mark Cleveland

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WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!

JON HANDLEY-COLLINS,
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC
DISCUSSES:

Sciatica



Sciatica "Si-at-ika" is a group of symptoms involving pain in the buttock and back of the leg, only usually on one side of the body. In addition to pain there may be any combination of pins & needles, numbness, tingling and muscle weakness in the affected leg or foot.

The true meaning of Sciatica is often misunderstood. The term is merely a group of symptoms and not a diagnosis. This means that if you have been told you have Sciatica, you still have not been given a diagnosis, as the diagnosis is being told what is causing your Sciatica symptoms. Having a correct diagnosis is important because the treatment options for the different causes are very different.

The main causes of Sciatica are:

■ **Spinal disc herniation:** Some people call this a "slipped disc" but what actually happens is the fluid like contents of your spinal disc causes the outer layers of the disc to bulge out. If this bulge is on to a spinal nerve in your lower back, it can cause Sciatica.

■ **Spinal Stenosis:** This is where the hole for your spinal nerve to exit from the spinal canal closes up and puts pressure on the affected nerve, causing Sciatica.

■ **Piriformis Syndrome:** The piriformis is a muscle in your buttock. The Sciatic nerve passes very closely to this muscle and in rare cases passes through the muscle. When this muscle gets tight it can irritate the Sciatic nerve, which can cause Sciatica.

As a Chiropractor, many people come to me with sciatica. Narrowing the symptoms down to a diagnosis involves a thorough case history, an orthopaedic examination to find out where the symptoms are coming from, a neurological examination to find out if and how the nerves are affected and a Chiropractic examination to find out how your spine is functioning. If necessary, an X-Ray can also be taken of the affected area.

A report of findings is then prepared to tell you what has been found and what needs to be done to sort it out, be that Chiropractic treatment or referral to your GP for a specialist investigation.

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WINNER: Royals Manager Dawn Jeakins, James Hilton, Callum James-Hilton and Michaela Parry.
Picture by Mark Cleveland

Top of the tots

THE WINNER of the Yellow Advertiser Baby and Toddler Competition has been named as Callum James Hilton.

Judges were so impressed by the youngster's portrait they chose him first out of more than

180 entries.

Royals shopping centre manager Dawn Jeakins handed over the trophy and a canvas portrait.

Mum Michaela said: "We're thrilled that Callum has won." The Yellow Advertiser will be

launching its Basildon Baby and Toddler competition at the Eastgate Centre, from Good Friday. The competition will run for two weeks. Anyone who wants to take part should just turn up during the fortnight.

For more news, sport and features, visit www.yellowad.co.uk

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SHOW: Bev Baker, Victoria Sedalek, and Charlie Gunter

Picture by Mark Cleveland

Raising money in style

A FASHION show is being held to raise money for Havens Hospice.

The Fashion event at Bellinis, on London Road, Leigh, will feature local fashion shops and designers from the Leigh area.

The show will also break the usual convention of having size zero models wearing the clothes.

Organiser, Adele Hagon, said she had spent a year trying to organise the event to

raise money.

The 31-year-old said: "I was inspired to make this show for all men and women of all shapes and sizes most of us in Essex love our fashion and clothes."

The fashion show will also have 14 stalls being run by local clothing outlets and have live make up demos from artists from Dior and Armani.

Adele said: "This show is driven by passion and enthusiasm for the clothing industry

and beauty industry in general.

"As it is a local show it would make sense to use local shops as local people love to see a displays from their favourite local shops, there is much support for this first show as locally no-one has seen anything like this."

FashionA is being held at Bellinis, on Thursday, March 7, from 7pm to midnight.

To book tickets visit www.fashiona.co.uk

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Campaign to save Southend air show

A CAMPAIGN group is hoping to show Southend Council how passionate people in the town are about the annual air show that could be axed this year.

Save Southend Airshow was set up on Facebook in January, after the authority announced in its budget plans it could be cut.

Tom Curtis, from Honiton Road, Southend, one of the founders of the group, said the decision by the council was a failing in its standards.

The group which has more than 13,000 supporters, has posted a message on Facebook inviting people to attend the Full Council meeting this week where the decision will be made about the future of the show.

On their page the group has posted 'We are asking everyone who can to show support - Come to the Civic Centre for the Council vote to help save the airshow.'

Mr Curtis, 29, said: "The air show is a particularly special in my heart.

"It's a fantastic thing to watch on the seafront, it's great for the town and it's disappointing to hear the suggestion of it not being held.

"It brings people into the town and benefits the businesses in the area too.

"We have to show there are concerns over the decision.

"If there are any other like minded people in Southend it would be good to see them turn up and show cancelling the air show would be the wrong decision."

The meeting will be held tomorrow (Thursday), at 6.30pm, in the Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend.

V Festival line up announced

BEYONCE will headline V Festival 2013.

Other acts announced are Stereophonics, The Script, Emeli Sandé, Calvin Harris, Beady Eye, Jessie J, Two Door Cinema Club, The Vaccines, Basement Jaxx, and Olly Murs.

V Festival is now in its 18th year.

Festival directors Bob Angus said: "We've worked hard to bring fans an exciting and diverse line-up, securing Beyonce for an exclusive European Festival appearance and Kings of Leon as headliners is a great achievement."

Tickets go on sale on Friday March 1 at 9am fans should visit www.vfestival.com



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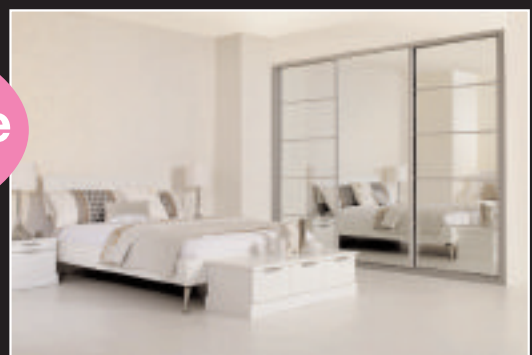
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Friends Libby Enright and Lauren Cooper (pictured), from Edwards Hall Junior School in Leigh, cooked up a storm with cookies, flapjacks, cupcakes and even a tasty Victoria Sponge.

The 10-year-olds spent weeks busy in the kitchen prepping and baking the cakes before selling them to their neighbours and school friends from Libby's driveway last Friday.

Libby and Lauren said: "We learned about Little Havens in assembly and we decided we wanted to

raise money for the hospice to help other children our age to have better lives."

For more information about

how you can support Little Havens Children Hospice see: www.havenshospices.org.uk or call 01702 220358.

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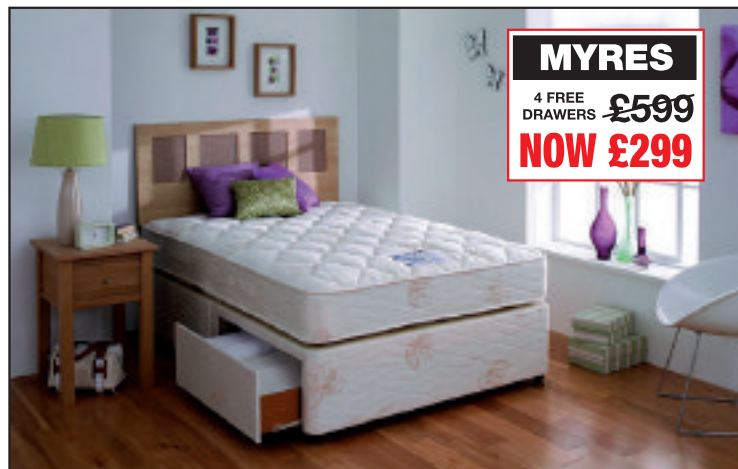
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Southend pier sees first wedding



SUNSET: A view from Southend Pier (right)

Pictures by Mark Cleveland



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ROMANCE was in the air at the Cultural Centre at the end of the Pier last Saturday when it played host to its first wedding.

Bride Emma Hunter, and groom, Ian Barnes tied the knot at the venue at 3:30pm, as the venue has special significance for them.

Emma, 24, who works as a care assistant said the Pier is where Ian took her on their first date.

She said: "It was an absolutely lovely day in the summer. We had a nice walk there and had our first kiss on the Pier too. It was very, very romantic."

"When we were planning to get married we found that the Pier Cultural Centre was licensed for weddings, and it just seemed perfect."



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If we can make a difference in the local community by helping out where is needed that is our main aim and goal. We feel that our services that we can provide will give that little bit extra back to the community that we live in and we do it with total empathy and understanding or all our clients that we provide any services for.

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Music night is on The Edge

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

A LONG-RUNNING free music night in Basildon has changed venue.

Professional musician Joe Hymas has been running the weekly gig for 22 years, most of which were spent at the Castlemayne in the Knares.

The event is now preparing to transfer to The Edge, opposite Basildon Bowl.

Joe said: "This is a bigger venue. We're hoping it will give the night a bit of a boost."

Joe, a session musician who has worked for the BBC, ITV and Universal Pictures, started running the nights when he was 18.

He said: "I was looking for gigs for my

band and there weren't many places to play, especially for alternative musicians.

"We started organising our own gigs and as they got more popular, people started asking if they could play with us. Then it sort of evolved into my booking gigs that my band wasn't even playing at."

He said he always tried to present an array of different music and that he required groups to play their own, original songs.

He said: "We have indie, rock, funk, ska, rap... There is talent out there. There are a lot of good ideas coming out of this town."

Joe, 40, has made a living from music by giving guitar lessons, working as a session musician and playing at festivals

like Glastonbury and the Isle of Wight.

However, he described the weekly music nights as a 'labour of love'.

He said: "A lot of venues want to charge you to play there, charge you to use the PA system, charge your mates £5 to get in and only give £1 to you."

"We don't charge the bands or the audience. We get a percentage of the money behind the bar and that's shared equally with the bands. We don't want to rip the players off, we want to help them out."

Joe will hold two trial nights at The Edge to see whether the venue is a good fit.

The first will be held at 8pm tomorrow (Thursday) at 8pm. The night will feature sets by Emy's Parade, And These Shores and Jackson's Warehouse.



STRING THEORY: Joe Hymas

Picture by Martin Dalton



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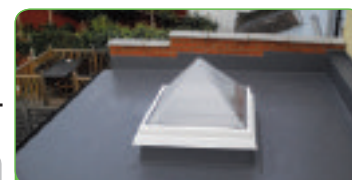
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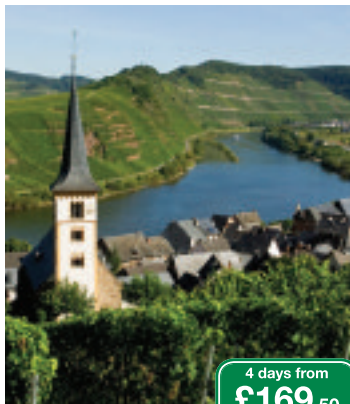
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Fall man in Council tax arrest

MAN who died while being taken into custody was being arrested for not paying his council tax.

Steven Bore, 31, of Canvey, was arrested on a warrant over non payment of council tax by police officers on a houseboat at the Smallgains Marina shortly after midnight on Sunday, February 17.

Mr Bore's death is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

In a statement, the IPCC said that the two officers said they were escorting Mr Bore to a nearby police car when he fell from a wooden jetty onto an embankment.

An ambulance was called just before 12.30am and he was taken to Basildon Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 2.43am. The IPCC was notified about the fall about 1.30am and an investigator was sent to assess the scene.

IPCC commissioner, Mary Cunneen, said: "I would like to extend my condolences to Mr Bore's family and friends at this very difficult time. It is vital when someone dies in the custody of the police that an investigation is conducted independently of the force involved.

The IPCC has been unable to confirmed whether Mr Bore was handcuffed during his arrest or whether either of the two police officers involved attempted to help resuscitate him after his fall.

IPCC investigators said that they will be seeking to speak with the person who was with Mr Bore at the time of his arrest. They are expecting to gather further evidence as the investigation progresses. A post mortem was conducted on Monday to establish cause of death but results were inconclusive.

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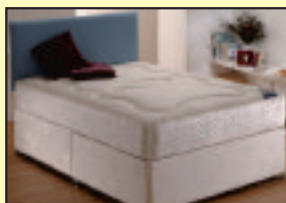
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Opinion and readers' letters

There should be no scope for profit

DESPITE the published opposition from 118 Consultants, 24 GPs and many patients, the NHS East Regional Health Authority continues to promote its proposal to transfer blood testing analyses from Southend and Basildon Hospitals to Bedford, 88 miles away.

It would be subject to transport delays that could harm patient care or even lead to death where the start of vital treatment is delayed awaiting the results of tests.

To date, there have been only two reasons given for the proposal. Both lack conviction.

The first reason given is that £1.2 billion would be saved over 20 years across the Eastern Health Region which is totally unprovable in the face of the vagaries of events over that period of time.

The other reason given is that pathology services in the Eastern Health Region have developed in an inconsistent manner, whatever that means. It certainly does not appear to have any relevance to the present efficient service provided by Southend Hospital where results are achieved

within two hours.

The blood test analyses proposed at Bedford will be undertaken by an organisation, GSTS, which is a venture between a private firm Serco and Kings College and St. Thomas Hospitals.

However, GSTS is still awaiting accreditation for its cellular pathology and haematology services, unlike Southend and Basildon hospitals which have full clinical pathology accreditation for all their pathology services.

Dr Michael Mills, a retired Southend Hospital consultant haematologist has said "...the body responsible for this highly important decision appears to have lacked any form of haematological or biochemical input into the decision making but saw fit to award the contract to a laboratory without accreditation."

Documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by Corporate Watch has also revealed that there were 400 clinical incidents in 2011 including losing and mis-labelling samples at St Thomas' labs. It also failed to meet the agreed turnaround times for tests 46 times in 2011 with 'critical care risk levels' breached 14 times. A previous attempt to transfer blood testing analyses to a private company in Wales also proved ineffective and was quickly returned to Southend.

The suspicion is that the

plan is to privatise all NHS blood testing services eventually but private enterprises, except for those providing luxury services for the wealthy, rely on making profit from least-cost products or services, and selling them at the highest possible price.

There should be no scope for profit within the NHS and all sources of finance should be kept totally within the NHS and not distributed to shareholders, some of whom may not even be citizens of this country and certainly without any concern for patient safety if it reduces profit.

The ideological premise that private companies are more efficient than NHS staffs is a myth that has been demonstrated time and time again, not least from the neglect and even deaths of patients in private care homes where least-cost contracts have sadly proven, at times, to be what a cynic such as myself, might call 'contract killings.'

Of course we must have cost conscious finance managers but there is no reason why they cannot and should remain as NHS employees with the interests of the organisation and patient welfare as their ultimate guideline.

The scandal at the Stafford hospital may eventually be blamed on the pressure to meet Government cutback targets, but hospital Managers, supported by local

MPs, should have the courage to stand up and fight for services when they are under threat and patient care could be harmed.

That is what we have seen at Southend Hospital where so many highly respected senior staff have nailed their flags to the mast and voiced their concern that the transfer of blood tests will harm patient care.

Sadly, most of our local MPs, who should be supporting the interests of their constituents, appear to lack a proper understanding of the issue or of giving respect to the evidence of those in the front line at Southend and Basildon Hospitals. We must hope that we do not end up with a sadly weakened service because enough people did not speak out before it was too late.

Steve Askham
Leigh on Sea

The animals are punished the most

IN response to TJ King's recent letter (YA 20 Feb) 'Who Will 'Meat' The Punishment' regarding the ongoing horse meat revelations, I can answer their question irrevocably that it will be the animals that are punished the most.

We have in the past been very concerned over food labelling and the way in which it can deceive the consumer.

In the light of the food labelling scandal regarding horse meat we feel that consumers have a right to know the whole truth about, not only the contents, but the true conditions in which the animals have been kept and slaughtered. In this event we have become increasingly concerned that Islamic halal slaughtered meat is not always being labelled as such and that non-Muslim consumers are being deceived into unwittingly buying meat slaughtered in the halal way.

Like the majority of people in this country who are not Muslim, we are very much against the killing of conscious animals and want to be sure that the meat eaters amongst us can make well informed choices from truthful and accurate labelling of the meat that we buy and can be confident that the animals we eat have been pre-stunned before slaughter. Muslims would not want or expect to eat meat from an animal that is not fully conscious at the time of slaughter, however, non-Muslims find this type of slaughter cruel and unacceptable.

We were shocked to read an article recently that stated that all New Zealand lamb is slaughtered using the halal method, as are most chickens, and we have written to

Andrew Rosindell MP, the Food Standards Agency, Havering Council and Defra asking for their comments. Watch this space! However, what with the demand for more and more cheaper meat, it will inevitably be the animals that suffer the most.

Consumers have a right to know exactly what they are eating. They have a right to know if it contains horsemeat. They have a right to know whether it contains an animal that has been killed whilst conscious or pre-stunned.

If any readers have similar concerns, we would suggest that they contact the above authorities.

Patricia & Nigel Hall,
Gidea Park

Britain should use Spain's idea

A LOT has been said in the papers of late about the costs for Britain regarding the ability of Romanian and Bulgarian people to come here in 2014.

One doubts that these people will head to Spain which is protected by much of the Spanish Order 1490 of July 9 2012. This sets out the rules on entry, movement and residence in Spain if the immigrants wish to remain for longer than three months. They need to meet the conditions laid down in Article 7 of Royal Decree 240/2007 of February 16 2007. In general they need to prove that they have sufficient resources for themselves and family members, not to become a burden on Spain's social assistance during their period of residence.

If we had similar rules in Britain which seem to be acceptable to the European Union much of the resentment that exists against immigrants in general would lessen considerably. Why has the British Government not followed in the Spanish direction?

James A. Mills
Address supplied

EU 'vote' will come to nothing

I AGREE with Mr. Dewhurst (YA 14 Feb) in that Cameron's commitment to hold an In/Out referendum will come to nothing, it being but a ploy to encourage votes and support. He hopes to obtain a bail out of the Working Times Directive to lessen the rights of our workforce whilst his right hand liability Osborne is seeking a level playing field in the matter of Corporation Tax.

Furthermore, in the matter of trying to encourage votes,

it is suggested that shares of RBS will be gifted to taxpayers. In view for the poverty levels we are witnessing - that will probably be much worse in two years time - one can imagine a rush to cash in on such largesse resulting in a much reduced shareprice for the benefit of Osborne's ilk.

Got to do something now that Gerrymandering with constituency boundaries has come unstuck.

Les Harrington,
Benfleet

Ralph is a big plus for Essex

LAST year I was fascinated by the readers who wrote in praising the many books of boxing author Ralph Oates.

Being a fight fan I had heard of Oates before but decided to Google him anyway and found that he is also the present Boxing Consultant for the Guinness World Records.

With Ralph coming from Essex this is another big plus for our county and another blow for the many critics who like to knock us.

Tommy Elliott
Chadwell Heath

No excuse for dog mess

AS AN owner of two dogs I have to say I am absolutely disgusted with the amount of dogs mess that is being left on pavements, parks and dog walking areas. You can no longer walk without looking at the ground for fear of stepping in dogs mess.

My two dogs love playing with a ball on their walks and I have to say they are forever getting upset stomachs the day after. I am sure it's due to the amount of mess they are coming into contact with their ball rolling in it and then them picking it up.

Also the biggest concern is children playing in parks etc that come into contact with dogs mess, the health implications can be awful.

I feel this is a problem that's getting totally out of control and absolutely no excuse for it. Dog waste bags are available in all supermarkets and pet shops. Please stop being plain LAZY dog owners and pick up your dogs' mess after them and dispose of properly. Let's all be able to enjoy our walks without our pets becoming ill or worse our children.

Joanne Read
via e-mail

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To celebrate our fresh start, we're holding this year's membership fees at last year's prices. We'll be accepting new members from the 1st April and we very much look forward to welcoming you to The Rayleigh Club, where we're putting the heart back into the community.

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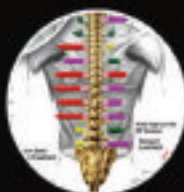
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PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Saturday, March 2

- Saturday Morning Club, St Michaels Church Hall, Leigh Road, every Saturday 10am-noon, entertainment provided by choirs, soloists, musicians, refreshments, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Meeting, Brush Strokes Art Group, Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, every Saturday 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke, every Saturday 2.30pm. 01702 465801.
- Jazz Workshop, Southend Jazz Co-op, St Michael's Church Hall (rear car park entrance), Leigh Road/Mount Avenue, Leigh, every Saturday 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions available).
- Rugby Training Session, Rochford Hundred Rugby Club, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell, for boys and girls aged between 5 and 12, every Saturday 10am-noon. 07533 348799.
- Football School for Girls, Fryerns Recreation Ground, £1 drop in sessions every Saturday 10.30-11.30am, in association with Leigh Celtic Girls and Ladies FC. 07862 456558.
- Fun Football Training Sessions, Memorial Park, Wickford (Highcliff Road entrance), every Saturday 9.30-10.30am, under 6s and under 6s, parents encouraged to stay and watch, boys and girls welcome, further details 01268 769902.
- Footie Tots, Swain School, Rayleigh, Saturday mornings from 9am, 3 years upwards, further details Shane 07887 627385/07790 938009.
- Jumble Sale, Mazenod Hall, St. Peter's RC Church, Eastwood Road North, Leigh, 10.30-12.30. Free Admission. Clothes, books, bric a brac, refreshments.
- Transmission Meditation Workshop – Southend Central Library, 10am to 11.30am, free admission.
- Basildon Keyboard Club concert. Steve Hubble with his Tyros keyboards. James Hornsby School, Nicholas Lane, Basildon,

8pm. Admission £5.00 including refreshments. Contact John for details 01268 415506.

- South East Essex branch of the Essex Society for Family History, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff. The talk will be at 2.30pm and is 'Maintaining documents and record research' by Derek Falgrave. 01702 522992.
- Race night, Southend & District Reform Synagogue, 851 London Road, Westcliff, 6.30pm. Adults £5, children under 16 free. 01702 464919.

Sunday, March 3

- Trading Hut Open, The Hockley and District Horticultural Society, every Sunday 10am-noon, for all your gardening sundries, membership £3.
- American Football, Essex Spartans, junior players wanted aged 14-19, training Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue, Billericay, Sundays noon-2pm, further details contact Coach, Alan 07794 210194.
- Men's Futsal Football Sessions, Markhams Chase, Basildon, Sundays 8-10pm, all abilities welcome, 4, further details Paul 07882 456558.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation, Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, Sundays 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation over tea and biscuits, all welcome.
- King's Church Southend at Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, a church where knowing Jesus makes all the difference. 01702 523639.
- King's Church Tarpoons at St Mary's Church Hall, High Road, Benfleet, every Sunday 10.30am-12.30pm, church but not as you know it. 01268 750520.
- Greek Community of Southend and District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Pauls, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, every Sunday 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club, TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (children 3-12 years), Bible stories, craft, singing, every Sunday 10.45-11.45am, no charge, further details 01702 554904.
- Southend Christian Counselling Service, do you need to talk, open to all, Mondays 5.30-7.30pm and Thursdays 2-7.30pm, further details call our 24 hour answer machine 01702 335252 and we will get back to you.

- Activity session, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, 10am-12pm, for adults with special needs (term time only), £1, no charge for carers, 01268 779100.
- Weekly Craft Workshop, St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, every Monday 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group, Mondays and Wednesdays 8-10pm, Woodlands School, Basildon, further details Jeff Levy 07951 681582 or email join@basildonplayers.co.uk
- Whist, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over 50s, every Monday 10am-noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Ghylgrove Centre, Butneys, every Monday 1.30-3.30pm, make friends, bingo, trips. 01268 293995.
- Pensioners Stall, York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, every Monday and Thursday 8am-2pm.
- Evening of Clairvoyance, Room 2, Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, every Monday, doors open 7.30pm, admission £3, all profits donated to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing, every Monday in Basildon from 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSS healers, no charge, all donations to local Hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
- Development Healing Circle, Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, every Monday 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.

Tuesday, March 5

- Meeting, Ladies Fellowship at the Salvation Army in Hadleigh, Tuesdays 7.30pm, any age, good speakers, chatter nights, outings, meals out and summer walks, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.
- Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Menap), Castle View School, Mappell Avenue, Canvey, Tuesdays 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25 plus, £2 per session, membership details 01702 341250.
- Tuesday Luncheon Club, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, 01702 478691/525141/340617.
- Depression: Self Help Group, every Tuesday 8-9.30pm, and Thursdays 12.30-2pm, we are a very successful and caring group, Michael 01268 527283.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club, St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, every Tuesday 11.45am-1.15pm.
- Vange Tots, The Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, every Tuesday 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.
- Lunchtime recorded music, Civic centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend. 12.45 to 1.45pm. Ivor's Choice No 44 by Ivor Blankfield. Admission free.
- Shoebury Flagship, Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, every Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team offering activities, advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to 5 years. 01702 577656.
- Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties, run by 'Breathe Easy' part of the British Lung Foundation, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, Tuesdays 12.45-2.30pm. 01702 610050/466827.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group meets every Tuesday and Friday, Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, wide range of activities and outings, Tuesdays 9.30am-2pm and Fridays 10am-2.30pm.
- New and Nearly New Stall, outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, facing the gardens (if wet in church foyer), every Tuesday 10am-noon.
- Table Top Sale, Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, every Tuesday 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems. 01702 258661.
- Carpet Bowls, Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrison's car park, every Tuesday 1.45-3.45pm, (and every Thursday 3.30-5.30pm), no experience necessary, non competitive, £2 per session including tea, joining fee £5, first session free.
- Bingo and Hov, Wick Community Centre, Wickford, every Tuesday 1.30-4pm, further details John Clarke 01268 570575.

Wednesday, March 6

- Thames Estuary Decorative and Fine Arts Society (TEDFAS) Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, 10.30am and then again at 2.30pm. 'The cultural heritage of the Huguenots.' Lecture by Sue Jackson. Visitors £5. 01702 479416 or 01268 771120.

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Fee-Free for Groups)

Saturday 2nd March at 7.30pm
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Tickets: £19.50, £18.50, £14.50

Sunday 3rd March at 7.30pm
Film: Skyfall
(Cert 12A)
Tickets: £6.00
(Cash payments exempt from booking fee)

Thursday 7th March at 8pm
C'Mon Everybody
Tickets: £17.50, £16.50, £13.50
Concessions: £1.00 off

Friday 8th March at 8pm
Irish House Party
Tickets: £20.50, £19.50, £15.50
Concessions: £1.00 off

Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm
Rose-Marie
Tickets: £20.50
Concessions: £1.00 off

Thursday 21st-Saturday 23rd March
A Cricket Match
Tickets: Thu 8pm & Sat 2.30pm
£18.50, £16.50, £10.50
Fri & Sat 8pm £21.50, £19.50, £11.50
Concs £1.50 off (exc Fri & Sat 8pm)

eating out

Advertisement feature

Enjoy a new dining experience

A NEW dining experience has opened its doors in Billericay offering diners the chance to enjoy as much as they like without compromising on freshness.

Plum Valley, which opened earlier this month, gives diners an extensive choice of more than 100 dishes. But, unlike other restaurants where you get up and help yourself from a buffet serving counter, Plum Valley has a team of experienced staff who silver serve whatever dishes you would like, right to your table.

This concept allows you the chance to benefit from a great choice of dishes at a fantastic set price, while being assured that all your dishes are freshly prepared to order.

The restaurant, which is part of the Plum Group that has another restaurant in Upminster as well as others across the country, replaces the former Silver Lotus restaurant.

Its owner, who ran the Silver Lotus for almost eight years and has extensive experience in the business, is excited about the future of his new restaurant which specialises in authentic Peking and Cantonese cuisine.

As well as changing the restaurant's concept and its name, Mr Uddin has also invested in a total refurbishment of the premises including a new look seating area and a new look restaurant front.

Its 'eat as much as you like' menu costs just £12.95 for adults and £8.95 for children under the age of 12 from Sunday to Thursday, and £14.95 for adults and £9.95 for children under the age of 12 on Friday and Saturday.

As well as being a great place to enjoy a meal with family or friends, the restaurant is also a great place to celebrate special occasions, from birthdays to anniversaries.

Throughout the year the restaurant will be celebrating special occasions including Mother's Day when it will be open all day for those who want to enjoy a special lunch or an



evening meal with the family.

Anyone interested in making a booking for Mother's Day, when its 'all you can eat' menu will cost £14.95 for adults and £9.95 for children under the age of 12, is urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

The restaurant is open from noon to 2pm,

and from 6pm to 11pm, from Monday to Thursday, from 6pm to 11pm on Friday and Saturday, and all day from 1pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

For further information or to make a reservation call Plum Valley on 01277 637400 or 01277 655359.

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Advertisement feature

eating out

Celebrate at the Chichester

THE Chichester, situated in open farmland in the village of Rawreth, is a charming and picturesque setting in which to celebrate any occasion.

Its new Millennium Disco evenings, held in the 160-seat Tudor Restaurant, are ideal for parties large and small throughout the year.

Its three-course dinner menu, which you are not required to pre-select no matter how large your party is, includes a wide range of choices. This is followed by dancing to an excellent disco, from 10.30pm to 12.30am.

For private parties, The Chichester offers a fixed-price multi-choice menu (five starters, five main courses and five desserts) for up to 160 guests, or a buffet for up to 225 guests, and again pre-selection is not required.

The beautiful oak-beamed rooms of The Chichester provide a romantic and memorable backdrop for Civil Marriage Ceremonies and Wedding Receptions. Add to this the meticulous planning skills of the highly experienced catering team and the convenience of the adjoining 34 bedroom Chichester Hotel, and you have to agree that The Chichester is the ideal wedding venue.

Sunday Luncheon in the Tudor Restaurant is an ideal occasion for family celebrations when perhaps an evening may not be best for the elderly or infirm. There are excellent disabled facilities. Meals in the Stable Bar on Sundays are a la carte.

The Chichester's booking office is open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the weekend. Call 01268 561234 for further information and sample menus or visit the website at www.thechichester.co.uk (e-mail info@thechichester.co.uk)



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Chicken or Egg? Buy First or Sell?

For homeowners wishing to sell their property and buy another, it's the classic dilemma – which do you do first, buy or sell?

There is probably no all-encompassing answer. Typically, people initially investigate the market to find out what they can buy for their money. Inevitably, during this research they fall in love with the “ideal” property. As they have yet to sell, they find themselves in a weak position as purchasers and are unlikely to have anything but an asking price (or even higher) offer accepted. After all, why should a vendor limit the sale of their property to the saleability of someone else's?

Even if terms are agreed, then what? You end up being forced to sell quickly, possibly at a low figure, so that you don't lose your new property. Annoyingly, once a property goes under offer, everyone seems to want it!

The difference between your expensive purchase and cheap sale could cost you as much as 20% more than the cost of the move in more controlled circumstances.

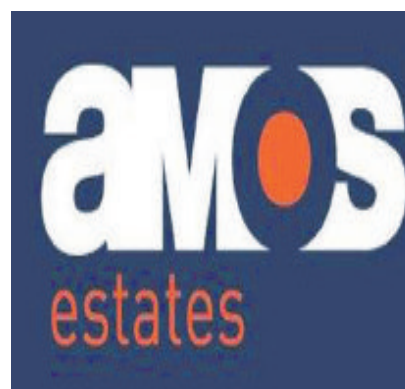
So be cool. Sell from a position of strength, and buy using the power of cash. A proceedable purchaser is a joy to the ears of an estate agent and their client.

As for that dream home – isn't it rather a coincidence that the perfect property just happens to be on the market at the precise moment you are looking? There is always another one around the corner, and it may even be better! And if you don't find a suitable property in time, then you are hardly likely to be homeless, as nobody is going to force you to sell until you are ready – it is entirely your decision.

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plot 4. Three bedroom detached

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Philbrick Crescent East, RAYLEIGH / **£209,995**



NEW PRICE



Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow \ Stylishly Decorated Property \ Sought After Location \ Close To Rayleigh Train Station \ Easy Access To Town Centre \ Lounge With Splay Bay Window 15'10 x 12'0 \ Modern Kitchen 9'0 x 8'0 \ Bedroom One 11'0 x 11'0 \ Bedroom Two 8'0 x 7'0 \ Modern Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Attractive Rear Garden \ Block Paved Driveway Providing Off Street Parking \ Must Be Viewed \ Call 01268 742742

Riverview Road, BENFLEET / **£250,000**



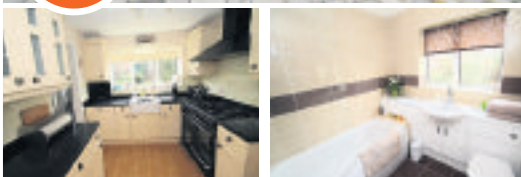
FANTASTIC VIEWS



Three Bedroom Semi Detached Town House \ Lounge 16' x 10'11 \ Kitchen/Diner 15'8 x 9'8 \ Lobby Area \ Sitting Room/ Studio 16' x 10'6 \ Utility/Kitchen Area \ Cloakroom \ Bedroom One 16' Into Wardrobes x 8'4 \ Bedroom Two 12'9 x 8'7 \ Bedroom Three 9'6 x 6'11 \ Bathroom/W.c \ Garage 16'4 x 9'4 \ Fantastic Views Over Surrounding Countryside Towards Benfleet Downs and Thames Estuary/Kent Coast \ Off Street Parking \ Few Minutes Walk Of Benfleet Station \ Easy Access Of Both Benfleet High Road, Boyce Hill Golf Course And The Downs \ Sole Agents \ Viewing Advised \ Call 01702 555888

RAYLEIGH

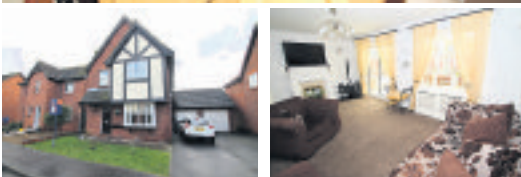
£295,000



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 11AM TIL 12 NOON \ 173 DOWNHALL PARK WAY, RAYLEIGH SS6 9TP \ JUST TURN UP TO VIEW \ Three Bedroom Detached House \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Lounge 15'0 X 11'0 \ Dining Room 9'0 X 8'0 \ Kitchen 9'11 X 8'0 \ Utility Room 6'0 X 4'10 \ Bedroom One 11'0 X 9'10 With En-Suite Shower Room \ Bedroom Two 12'0 X 9'0 \ Bedroom Three 10'0 X 9'0 \ Family Bathroom \ Garage \ Call 01268 742742 \

RAYLEIGH

£340,000 - £350,000



Modern Four Bedroom Detached House \ Offered For Sale With No Onward Chain \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Lounge 17'0 X 11'0 \ Dining Room 17'0 X 11'0 Into Bay \ Kitchen 11'11 X 8'0 \ Double Glazed Conservatory 19'0 X 12'0 \ Bedroom One 14'0 X 8'10 With Fitted Wardrobes & En-Suite \ Bedroom Two 11'0 X 9'0 \ Bedroom Three 8'0 X 8'0 \ Bedroom Four/Office 7'10 X 6'0 \ Garage & Off Street Parking \ Call 01268 742742 \

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

£355,000



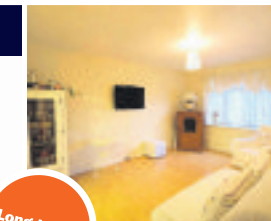
No Onward
Chain



Spacious Three/Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow \ Quiet Location \ Large Lounge 18'1 x 17'4 \ Conservatory 15'9 x 12'1 \ Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room 18'1 x 12'5 \ Ground Floor Bedroom One 15'11 x 11' \ Ground Floor Bedroom Two 13'6 x 10'11 \ Ground Floor Bedroom Three 10'4 x 8'9 \ First Floor Bedroom 15'8 x 12'11 With En-Suite W.c \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Pleasant Garden Measuring 60ft \ Detached Outbuilding \ Garage \ Off Street Parking \ Double Glazing \ Situated On The Popular Wick Development \ No Onward Chain \ Viewings Essential \ Call 01702 555888 \

HADLEIGH

£145,000



Long Lease



Purpose Built Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment \ Good Size Accommodation \ Lounge 14'6 x 10'3 \ Well Fitted Kitchen 10'2 x 6'3 With Oven, Hob And Washing Machine To Remain \ Bedroom One 12'8 x 8'2 \ Bedroom Two 11'3 x 6'5 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Upvc Double Glazing \ Economy Ten Heating \ All Flooring, Blinds And Vanity Cupboard To Remain \ Extremely Popular And Convenient Location \ Long Lease \ Sole Agents \ Viewing Advised \ Call 01702 555888 \

Hadleigh

£1450 pcm



Brand New Four Bedroom Detached House / Lounge / Diner 31'3 x 11'1 / Kitchen 13'0 x 7'11 / Utility Room 7'11 x 5'0 / Ground Floor Cloakroom / Bedroom One 14'5 x 10'6 With Ensuite Shower Room / Bedroom Two 13'9 x 10'5 With Ensuite Shower Room / Bedroom Three 12'4 x 9'7 / Bedroom Four 12'7 x 9'1 / Family Bathroom / Garage / Garden With Patio Area / Call 01702 555888 \

Southend on Sea

£1250 pcm



Refurbished three / four bedroom detached bungalow / Kitchen With Dining Area 18'1 x 12'5 / Outside Utility Room With Dishwasher & Washing Machine / Lounge 17'3 x 18'0 / Conservatory 15'7 x 11'9 / Three Piece Bathroom Suite With Shower Above Bath / Bedroom One 15'11 x 11'0 / Bedroom Two 13'5 x 10'9 / Bedroom Three 9'11 x 8'10 / Bedroom Four / Games Room 16'0 x 12'11 With En Suite / Laminate Flooring Throughout / Off Street Parking / Garage / Well Maintained Rear Garden / Call 01702 555888 \

Benfleet

£1100 pcm



Totally refurbished Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow / Brand New Fitted Kitchen 12'9 x 8'1 Electric Oven & Hob / Dining Area 9'0 x 6'5 / Lounge 17'4 x 11'2 / Luxury Three Piece Bathroom Suite With Shower Above Bath / Bedroom One 16'0 x 9'10 / Bedroom Two 10'5 x 10'0 / Bedroom Three 8'1 X 7'9 / Good Size Rear Garden With Patio Area & Shed / Off Street Parking / Call 01702 555888 \

Benfleet

£825 pcm



Totally Refurbished Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow / Kitchen 8'10 x 7'10 With Oven & Gas Hob / Lounge 17'5 x 9'10 / Conservatory 17'1 x 9'4 / Bedroom One 14'3 x 9'11 / Bedroom Two 8'11 X 8'5 / Shower Room / Low Maintenance Rear Garden / Quiet Yet Convenient Location / Double Glazed / Gas Central Heating / Call 01702 555888 \

Thundersley

£795 pcm



Attractive Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow / Good Size Lounge With Patio Doors To Conservatory / UPVC Double Glazed Conservatory To Rear / Two Double Bedrooms / Three Piece Bathroom Suite / Kitchen With Washing Machine To Remain / Detached Garage & Further Parking / Call 01702 555888 \

Hadleigh - t: 01702 555 888

Rayleigh - t: 01268 742 742

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NEW LISTING
SOLE AGENTS



HADLEIGH £450,000

- * Premier cul-de-sac backing Nature Reserve
- * Substantial detached bungalow, Undergone extensive remodelling work
- * Two bedrooms with en-suite to main
- * Separate luxury bathroom
- * Luxury kitchen & utility
- * Open plan lounge/diner with substantial conservatory
- * West facing garden
- * Garage with long independent driveway
- * EPC - BAND D



SOLE AGENTS



DAWS HEATH £205,000

- * Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- * Sought After Daws Heath Location
- * Modern Fitted Kitchen
- * 16' lounge
- * Separate dining room/sitting room
- * Parking for 4 cars
- * Recently refurbished however does still require some up-grading
- * No onward chain
- * Double Glazed windows & GCH



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SOLE AGENTS



HADLEIGH £289,995

- * Sought after turning close to Nature Reserve & town centre
- * Fully detached three bedroom family home
- * Luxury upgraded family bathroom
- * Modern kitchen & Ground floor cloakroom
- * Excellent sized lounge/diner
- * Study/conservatory
- * South facing garden
- * Garage & long independent driveway
- * EPC - BAND E



NEW LISTING
SOLE AGENTS



LEIGH-ON-SEA £305,000

- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House, Westleigh School Catchment, Modern Kitchen / Diner, Spacious Lounge / Diner
- Parking For 2 CarS, No Onward Chain, Close to Broadway & Train Station, Double Glazed Windows & GCH
- Courtyard Garden

NEW PRICE
SOLE AGENTS



THORPE BAY £215,000

- Marine apartment, Two double bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted kitchen, Panoramic views over the Thames Estuary from lounge & bedroom, Allocated under cover parking with remote control, EPC - BAND E

221 London Road, Hadleigh, Essex, SS7 2RD

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BENFLEET £850 pcm

- * Three Bed First Floor Flat
- * Modern Kitchen/Lounge
- * Three Piece Bathroom Suite
- * Garden & Allocated Parking
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band D



LEIGH ON SEA £1250 pcm

- * Two Bedroom Apt - St Clements Arcade
- * Large Lounge/Kitchen Capel appliances
- * Lifts and Stairs to Second Floor
- * Allocated Parking
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band C

LANDLORDS

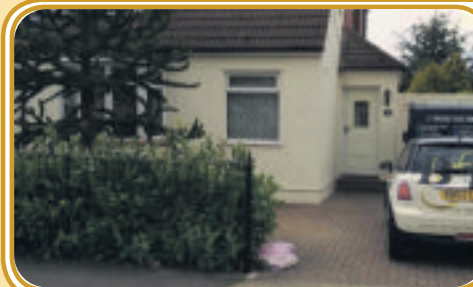
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BENFLEET £650 pcm

- * Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- * Recently Refurbished Throughout
- * Off Street Parking
- * Working Tenants Only
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band F



BENFLEET £1,300 pcm

- * Four Bed Semi Detached House
- * Large Lounge & Kitchen/Diner
- * Downstairs bathroom, upstairs shower room
- * Garage and off street parking
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band D



WESTCLIFF ON SEA £500 pcm

- * One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- * Spacious Lounge
- * Fitted Kitchen
- * Small Garden with Shed
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band F



BENFLEET £750 pcm

- * Two bedroom second floor flat.
- * Walking distance to mainline rail station
- * Newly decorated throughout
- * Parking for one car
- * Energy Efficiency Rating Band C

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NEW

Southend-On-Sea £235,000 offers above
Boasting generous interiors and stylish contemporary decor throughout, this fabulous three bedroomed house is arranged over three floors and is enviably located on the borders of Thorpe Bay close to Southchurch Park and Seafrost.



NEW

Leigh-On-Sea £160,000-£175,000
Offered for sale with no onward chain, this very competitively priced two bedroom house located in a popular residential area convenient for shops, schools & Belfairs Golf & Country Park.



NEW

Leigh-On-Sea £234,995 offers above
Offering ample living and entertaining space arranged on one level, this beautiful two bedroomed bungalow is wonderfully presented located moments from Belfairs Golf course and Country park.



NEW

Leigh-On-Sea £250,000 offers above
Boasting generous interiors and stylish contemporary decor throughout, this fabulous three bedroomed property is arranged over two floors and is enviably located on a peaceful residential road in Leigh-On-Sea.



NEW

Rayleigh £260,000 offers above
A stylish and spacious four bedroomed house offering stunning living and entertaining space in an enviable location, benefiting from a wealth of fantastic features arranged over three floors.



NEW

Westcliff-On-Sea £250,000
This substantial three bedroomed house is in excellent condition with spacious rooms and period features, situated close to amenities and transport links on a favoured residential road.



NEW

Southend-On-Sea £170,000-£180,000
GUIDE PRICE - £170,000-£180,000 Offering a great opportunity, this large three bedroomed bungalow with 70' rear garden is in need of a cosmetic improvements and offers well proportioned rooms and a popular residential address.



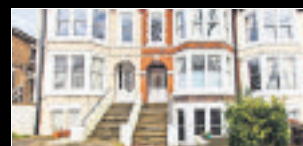
NEW

Westcliff-On-Sea £165,000-£175,000
Well placed close to the amenities of Westcliff-on-sea, this great three bedroomed house offers light-filled rooms, neutral decor and generous living space.



NEW

Hadleigh £209,995
Providing a popular and peaceful residential address in the Hadleigh Area, this stunning and spacious two bedroomed property is set over two floors.



NEW

Southend-On-Sea £164,995
A most beautifully presented and comfortable two bedroomed home well situated for all amenities enjoying light and airy rooms with a mix of modern and character features.



NEW PRICE

Leigh-On-Sea £230,000-£250,000
GUIDE PRICE: £230,000-£250,000 - A truly outstanding bungalow situated in one of the most popular settings close to Belfairs Woods and Golf Course, also extremely convenient for transport links and local shops.

Holding the Sale Together

It is well documented that, nationally, over 30% of all sales arranged fail to reach a successful exchange of contracts. Fortunately, our success rate is considerably better than this!

However, the sales cycle can be frustratingly slow and the longer the sale takes, the greater the chance of it falling through. This makes it particularly important that your estate agent handles your sale with kid gloves. So we typically advise our sellers as follows:

- **Preparation** – Make sure your solicitor has called for the deeds and prepared a draft contract in anticipation of finding a buyer.
- **Be serious** – Only accept a serious offer. Does the buyer have anywhere to sell, a mortgage agreed in principle and a solicitor lined up? Ask to see details. A serious buyer will be prepared and won't want to delay.
- **Don't accept an offer exclusively** from someone with a property to sell. By doing so you limit the saleability of your property to the saleability of theirs, and you lose control.
- **Bridge** – Bridging finance can provide a solution if you are caught between selling and buying. It is effective but costly and risky, so think carefully before entering into any agreement.
- **Ask your solicitor** about pre-contract agreements, which can bind the purchaser to buy prior to exchange, subject to certain provisions, much as they use overseas. You can even take a deposit from the purchaser to guard against them pulling out or renegotiating.

At Blackshaw Homes, we pride ourselves on our ability not only to deliver buyers to your door – but, more importantly, to make sure that your sale sticks! So you'll find our agents don't just walk away once the deal is done, but are fully involved in the whole sale process and will hang in there with you until the day you move.



NEW PRICE

Southchurch £240,000-£250,000
Offering a peaceful location on a pretty residential road, this great three bedroomed newly renovated home offers spacious rooms and a wonderful garden.



NEW PRICE

Westcliff-On-Sea £250,000 offers above
Boasting an impressive West-facing rear garden measuring in excess of 150ft is this charming detached chalet style bungalow. The accommodation offers two reception rooms, two bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, four piece bathroom suite, further cloakroom.



NEW PRICE

Leigh-On-Sea £257,000
Providing surprisingly generous, flexible accommodation this detached, set back, two bedroom bungalow located in a favoured residential road. This special bungalow enjoys a secluded rear garden, garage and plenty of parking.



Leigh-On-Sea £165,000-£175,000

A fantastic THREE bedroomed house located in Leigh-On-Sea boasting a bright and modern interior throughout, good sized rooms and a location ideal for all local amenities.



Southchurch £90,000 offers above
SEA VIEWS Situated in a striking gated development close to a wealth of amenities and transport links, this stylish top-floor flat offers secure entry, contemporary decor, parking and lovely views towards the Thames estuary.



Southend-On-Sea £445,000 offers above
BOURNES GREEN CATCHMENT Situated moments from Gorgeous Thorpe Bay, this bright and airy four bedroomed house offers generously proportioned living and entertaining space with private rear garden and excellent frontage.



Westcliff-On-Sea £214,995-£224,995
Earls Hall School Catchment - Enjoying well maintained interiors, ample accommodation and a pretty road, this large two bedroomed bungalow benefits from a large private garden, parking and garage.



Westcliff-On-Sea £190,000-£200,000
A fantastic two bedroomed bungalow offering bright and spacious accommodation boasting stunning interiors, a 50' south-facing garden, two double bedrooms and lovely lounge/diner.



Southchurch £175,000-£185,000

Spaciously arranged over three floors, this impressive four bedroomed house offers a superb opportunity offering large rooms and a private garden.



Southchurch £175,000-£185,000

Presenting smart interiors and modern designs throughout, this gorgeous three bedroomed house arranged over three floors is located in popular Southchurch Village and boasts large garden and off-road parking.



Southend-On-Sea £140,000-£150,000

PRICED TO SELL An attractive three bedroom character house that is close to all amenities while boasting large rooms throughout and requires some cosmetic updating which is reflected in the price.



Southend-On-Sea £165,000 offers above

Situated within the Milton conservation area is this mid terraced property that has been divided into separate rooms, making it an ideal investment opportunity as it is within striking distance of the Southend university.



Westcliff-On-Sea £185,000 offers above

This spacious two bedroomed bungalow is presented in good condition, is fully detached and features a 65' private rear garden

OFFICES IN LONDON
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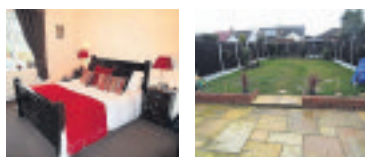
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EASTWOOD: 563 RAYLEIGH ROAD, EASTWOOD, SS9 5HP

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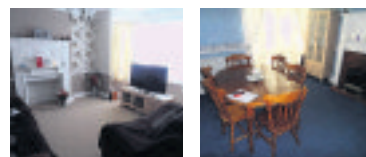
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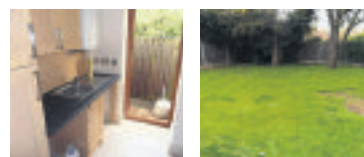
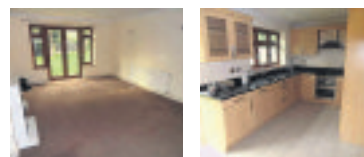

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LEIGH ON SEA £209,950

Two bedroom Extended bungalow within walking distance of Belfairs Woods and local shops the property has a 24' Lounge with french doors to garden, 18' Kitchen/diner with integrated appliances, South facing garden, off street parking for 2 cars and located in the fairway catchment area.


SOUTHEND ON SEA £226,995

Close to the seafront is this Four bedroom semi detached house with off street parking the property offers Two receptions, Fitted Kitchen, Utility room and Ground floor Shower room as well as Family bathroom and EN-SUITE to loft room.


WESTCLIFF ON SEA £379,950

Standing in this quiet mews location with gated access close to Southend hospital is this very spacious 4 bedroom Detached Chalet style residence that is being offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN. The property is located within easy access of Southend with it's excellent local facilities.

Need to let your property fast!

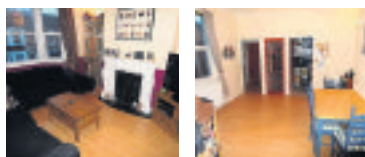
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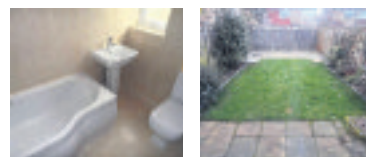
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WESTCLIFF ON SEA £145,000

Close to Chalkwell Park and shops in London Road we offer this Two/Three bedroom First floor flat with own section of garden, Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom with the vendor offering No onward chain.


SHOEBURNESS £162,500

OFFERING NO ONWARD CHAIN we offer this Two bedroom semi detached house which is presented to a high standard it offers a Kitchen/diner to rear, Modern Bathroom and a Garage in block.


WESTCLIFF / CHALKWELL £179,950

Two bedroom First Floor which has a Lounge to the rear 23', Fitted Kitchen, Luxury Bathroom, Own section of Garden and garage to rear and the property being located close to both the Seafront and Chalkwell station.

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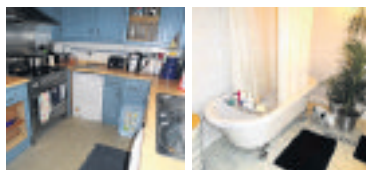
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Southend On Sea £350,000

Situated in a sought after position in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area with superb South facing views over looking Cliff Gardens and Thames Estuary. The property offers spacious living accommodation and offers 2/3 bedrooms and has the advantage of own off street parking and attractive rear gardens.

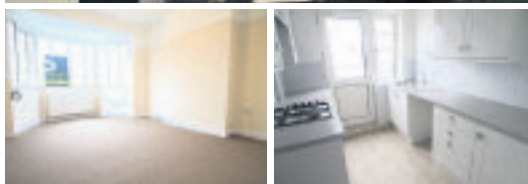
- ➔ Clifftown Conservation Area
- ➔ South facing views
- ➔ Spacious living accommodation
- ➔ Two/Three Bedrooms
- ➔ Dressing area
- ➔ Kitchen
- ➔ Bathroom/wc
- ➔ Loft room
- ➔ Communal gardens
- ➔ Off street parking

Southend On Sea £149,995



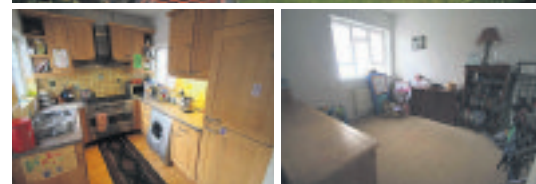
Two bedroom first floor apartment situated within a central location of Southend just off the seafront. The property offers spacious living room as well as good size kitchen and bathroom/wc with separate shower cubicle. The property benefits from full double glazing and gas central heating and own half of West backing rear garden. Vacant possession.

Leigh On Sea £159,950



Sought after location of Leigh, close to Chalkwell Park this attractive and fully refurbished second floor apartment offering two bedrooms. The property boasts attractive and quality newly installed kitchen and bathroom fittings and has the advantage of full newly installed gas central heating and modern double glazing.

Southend On Sea £449,500



Three storied Victorian town house being situated within the sought after Clifftown Conservation Area, close to town centre and Cliff gardens. The property includes a self contained lower ground floor apartment which could also be used to provide a further bedroom/ living accommodation. West backing garden with detached double width garage approached via rear vehicular access.

Shoeburyness £1,250 pcm



Detached family house situated within a sought after location of Shoeburyness benefiting from garage & off street parking for two vehicles. Spacious lounge/diner, new fitted kitchen, separate utility area. Ground floor wc, four bedrooms with the master bedroom benefitting from a brand new en-suite shower room/wc. Spacious luxury bathroom/wc with separate double shower cubicle, good size rear garden, gas central heating & full double glazing throughout.

Rayleigh £850



Semi detached bungalow situated within Rayleigh, fully refurbished, lounge, newly fitted kitchen with recess for fridge and freezer, plumbing and recess for washing machine, recess for gas cooker, two double bedrooms, bathroom/wc with new white suite, double glazing and gas central heating, rear garden and off street parking for two vehicles.

Southend On Sea £625 pcm



Large first floor flat which as been fully refurbished and is situated close to Southend town centre. There is a large lounge and two double bedrooms and a newly fitted kitchen with four ring hob and oven under, there is also a new modern bathroom/wc and the property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing throughout as well as brand new flooring.

Southend On Sea £525 pcm



Purpose built two bedroom self contained flat, newly carpeted and decorated throughout, double glazing and gas central heating, two double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated four ring gas hob with oven and grill under, extractor fan, plumbing and recess for washing machine, recess for refrigerator, bathroom/wc. Please note bath has no shower and small wash hand basin. Communal garden.

Southend On Sea £475 pcm



Self contained first floor flat above a shop, accommodation comprising large lounge, kitchen/diner with integrated oven and grill with four ring gas hob and extractor fan, plumbing and recess for washing machine, double bedroom, bathroom/wc with panelled bath with electric shower oven, wash hand basin and close coupled wc, full double glazing and gas central heating, newly carpeted throughout.

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FOR SALE



REDUCED HAZEL CLOSE, HADLEIGH £254,995

A two double bedroom bungalow within a sought after and quiet residential area of Hadleigh. The property has been fully refurbished within the last year by the current vendor. Subject to planning and consent the property has great potential to add dormers to the roof and/or extend to the rear or add a conservatory to provide even larger living accommodation.

FOR SALE



NEW INSTRUCTION BILTON ROAD, HADLEIGH £285,000

We are pleased to offer this detached 4 bedroom home within a desirable area of Hadleigh. This spacious property benefits from being tastefully decorated throughout and also having an attractive front and back garden. An internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this good size 4 bedroom family home which is within close proximity to schools and many local amenities.

FOR SALE



CLEVELAND DRIVE, WESTCLIFF ON SEA £195,000 – OFFERS INVITED

We are pleased to offer this 3 bedroom, 1920's built semi-detached house within a quiet and popular residential area of Westcliff on Sea. The property benefits from an attractive west facing garden, 2 reception rooms, a conservatory, 2 good size double bedrooms and 1 further single room as well as being within close proximity to Southend Hospital and Southend High School for boys. The property is in need of modernisation and would suit someone looking for a project.

FOR SALE



MUST BE VIEWED

CORNWORTHY, SHOEBOURNESS £224,995 OIRO

A well presented and attractive 3 bedroom mid terraced Georgian style home within a popular and sought after area of Shoeburyness. The property benefits from being a short walk to Thorpe Bay Station, local shops, schools for all ages and the seafront. A DECEPTIVELY LARGE PROPERTY WHICH MUST BE VIEWED!



TO LET



HILLWOOD GROVE, WICKFORD £875.00 PCM

A well presented, 3 bedroom family home within easy reach of Wickford High Street and Wickford train station. The property comprises of a spacious lounge diner with French doors leading out into the garden, a fitted kitchen, cloakroom, 2 good size double bedrooms, 1 fair size single room and a modern 3 piece bathroom. Outside there is an un-overlooked, part paved part laid lawn rear garden with a shed and to the front of the property is a large paved driveway with parking for up to 4 cars.



TO LET



LONDON ROAD, WESTCLIFF ON SEA £425.00 PCM

Conveniently located studio flat with separate kitchen diner area. Situated in Westcliff this second floor studio flat is a short distance from shops banks and the Westcliff train station. The property comprises of a large bedroom/living room, separate kitchen- diner, shower room and off street parking. Ideal home for someone looking to move into their own accommodation.

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Think Property Answer

Since 28 February 1997, all tenancies in England and Wales are automatically assured shorthold tenancies under section 19A of the Housing Act 1996 - unless the landlord specifically grants an assured tenancy in writing, which is a rare occurrence today.

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There is nothing to prevent you from granting a short-term three-month tenancy to a tenant. If the tenant agrees to leave when the three-month fixed term ends, there is no problem.

However, you will have a problem if the tenant refuses to leave by mutual surrender at the end of the three months. You would then have to gain possession through the court in order to evict the tenant and that would initially require service of a notice seeking possession under section 21 (1) (b) of the Housing Act 1988 within the fixed term, or a section 21 (4) notice if the fixed period has expired.

You could then apply for a possession order as soon as the notice has expired, but the date for possession could be no earlier than six months after the start date of the tenancy. For example, if the tenancy commenced 1 January, 2010, the earliest date that a court could order possession would be 30 June, 2010.

You would not be able to install a new tenant into the accommodation until you have lawfully gained possession and evicted the previous tenant.



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ASK THE AGENT ALAN KIRKMAN



ALAN KIRKMAN is Director of Essex TEAM - part of the UK's largest branded network of independent estate agents, with 50 computer-linked offices across the county and 500 more nationwide. Managing Director of Tudor Estates in Southend, Alan has been an Estate Agent for over 25 years.

Q. Is there really a housing crisis, or are we just talking ourselves into believing it?

A. Ah, a nice easy one for a change!

I suppose, to an extent, the answer to your question depends on how you define a crisis. It could certainly be argued, for example, that in these relatively comfortable times we tend to use the term a little too readily.

Of course, I am not in any sense seeking to downplay the very real difficulties that some individuals and families may currently be facing. But the fact is that we (and more particularly the press) love to blow these things out of proportion. Politicians likewise - either in order to blame it all on the other party, or to make themselves look like saviours of the nation when they come up with the solution!

So, negative equity is routinely described as a "nightmare," while people are said to be "trapped" in their current property. But is it? And are they? After all, negative equity doesn't matter at all if you look on your property as a home, to be lived in for the foreseeable future. Similarly, how many of those described as trapped really need to move - for example, because a change of circumstances means they can no longer afford the mortgage, or because of work, or a growing family? How many of them, on the other hand, are simply frustrated because they aren't currently in a position to exercise what they have been encouraged to think of as their right to take the next step up the so-called property ladder?

Interestingly, a recent public opinion poll has found that while a majority of people believe there is a housing crisis in Britain as a whole, only a minority regard it as a problem in their own area - which suggests either that most people don't know what's going on in their own backyard, or that the situation is rather more complicated and rather less "crisis-like" than the press and politicians would have us all believe!

Perhaps the bottom line is this. The overwhelming majority of people who want a roof over their head in this country, have one. It might not be the roof they would ideally like; they may be renting instead of buying - but they do have somewhere to call home. And that's something to be thankful for.

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Drivetime

A jolly good sport

By Andy Enright

THE Suzuki Swift Sport has long been a car embraced by serious drivers who know a great handling car when they see it. The latest car hopes to retain that hard core of customers while also appealing to a broader client base. It gets a little more power, even sharper handling and better efficiency but the overall aim might be scotched by its lookalike styling.

There's a video on Youtube that I like to show people when illustrating that a car's power isn't everything. It features a Porsche Cayman on the Nurburgring. The driver is clearly working hard at the wheel but his rear view mirrors are full of something upright and red and it won't go away. A Suzuki Swift Sport.

The Cayman is squealing its tyres and leaping over kerbs in a vain attempt to shake the little Japanese box but to no avail. Granted, the Swift is stripped, caged and has had a light tune but it's a testa-

ment to the rightness of the formula. The reason I know how fast that Swift was moving is because it was me at the wheel of the Porsche.

The Swift Sport is the default option for a number of driving schools at the Ring, drawn to its reliability, its excellent chassis setup and the size of the grin it paints on the faces of those who've never driven the track at speed before.

The Swift Sport has never been about pure power. Suzuki could easily shoehorn a 200bhp engine into the thing, but that would just make it uninsurable for younger drivers. Instead, and rather sensibly, engine power has been modest, the latest car mas-

Straight line performance improves marginally, but Suzuki has devoted much of their attention - and rightly so - to developing the Swift's chassis dynamics so it offers even more poise and control.

The torsion beam rear suspension has been tuned to

offer better rigidity and wheel control, while beefier rear wheel bearings enhance stability at the rear under hard cornering. Both front and rear springing is firmer and the front struts provide greater roll stiffness.

Modifications to the steering and gearbox bracing, suspension subframe and front wheel bearings all improve rigidity and allow the front suspension to work without having to cope with chassis flex involvement. The result is handling that's even more faithful than its predecessor.

This Swift doesn't look a whole lot different to the old one. It retains that car's sit up and beg styling, with big headlights and an airy glasshouse. A deeper front spoiler helps with the sports appeal and the wheels look to fill the arches rather more convincingly. The large front grille is flanked by finned fog lamp bezels that add even more sporting character.

Newly developed high-intensity discharge headlamps with a metallic-grey coating as well



as new design rear combination lamps lend the Swift Sport a more upmarket look.

The old Swift's interior was very basic and while the new car won't have you wondering if you're behind the wheel of an Audi A8, it does at least look a little more involving. It remains very driver focused, with a trio of overlapping dials in the instrument binnacle and a tapered centre console that draws the eye to the gear lever that marshals the six-speed manual transmission. The sports seats offer plenty of lateral support and the view out of the car is better than in most rivals, thanks again to that upright seating position and big glass area.

Even a car as focused on

fun as this can't escape the fact that many buyers look to economy and emissions when drawing up a shortlist of contenders. Fortunately it scores fairly well with CO2 emissions being trimmed from the old car's rather unspectacular 165g/km to a more manageable but still not class-leading 147g/km.

Fuel economy improves as well, from 39.8 to 44.1mpg.

Despite its modest power output the old Swift Sport was saddled with an insurance rating of Group 23 which, coupled with its relatively high emissions, put a cap firmly on its residual values. The latest car will need to do a lot better if it's to resist depreciation.

The Suzuki Swift Sport has

been a car that didn't always look great on paper but made all kinds of sense after a B-road blast. The latest model looks to retain the fun factor but builds on the sort of things that get customers into the showroom in the first place. It's quicker yet cleaner, drinks less fuel and offers a far more impressive interior.

Best of all, the premise of its predecessor has been carried forward. Yes, it needs to broaden its appeal, but at heart the Swift Sport has always been a car for those who know their onions.

The problem is that it looks too similar to its predecessor for much of the public to cotton onto the fact that it's a different car.



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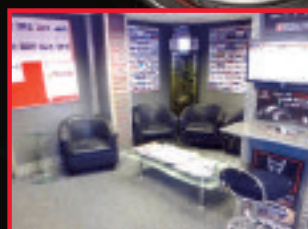
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Deaths

TERENCE ALEXANDER LATTER

Passed away peacefully on 21st February 2013,
aged 85 years.

Terry will be greatly missed by his family & friends.

His funeral will be held at Southend Crematorium,
Sutton Road at 10am Friday 1st March, followed by a
celebration of his life at Westcliff RFC, Aviation Way.

Donations rather than flowers, please, to Fair Havens
Hospice (<http://www.havenshospices.org.uk/>) or by
cheque to A.R. Adams Funeral Directors Ltd,
141-143 The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3EX

Public Notices



**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL AND
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOTICE OF THE PUBLICATION OF LONDON
SOUTHEAST AIRPORT AND ENVIRONS JOINT AREA
ACTION PLAN (SUBMISSION DOCUMENT)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Town and County Planning (Local Planning)
Regulations 2012: Regulation 19**

Rochford District and Southend-on-Sea Borough Councils have
jointly prepared the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint
Area Action Plan (JAAP) Submission Document, which it
proposes to submit to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22
of the above Regulations.

The JAAP Submission Document and accompanying documents
have been published in order for representations to be made prior
to the submission of the JAAP Submission Document to the
Secretary of State for examination.

The Plan provides the detailed planning policies and allocation of
land for a specific area of land that comprises London Southend
Airport and its environs. The precise area covered by the Plan is
shown in the Plan itself. The Plan includes the proposals map for
the area covered by the Plan.

Representations can be made during the publication period which
begins at noon on 25 February 2013 and ends at 5.00pm on 10
April 2013. Only representations received during this time will
be considered. Late responses will not be accepted. Consultation
representations will only be regarded as duly made if supplied on
the Representation Form or made directly via the online
consultation system.

The online consultation system can be accessed via
www.southend.gov.uk and www.rochford.gov.uk. Copies of the
Representation Form are available from Southend Civic Centre
and Rochford Council Offices, or on request by calling 01702
215 408.

The Plan, alongside a statement setting out how representations
can be made, is available online via www.southend.gov.uk;
www.rochford.gov.uk; at Southend Civic Centre and Rochford
Council Offices; and in the District's / Borough's libraries.

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT/VARIATION OF A
PREMISES LICENCE / CLUB PREMISES
CERTIFICATE / PROVISIONAL STATEMENT
Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licenses and Club
Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005
paragraph 25**

Alec Schubert & Kim Parker, Nine Acres, Flemings Farm
Road, Eastwood, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5QT. It is
proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises.

Damn Dead Circus will be going ahead on the last
weekend in August every year. This is a family folk
festival, with a laid back feel with blues, western and folk
music performed on stage by local acts in the area.

The Licensing Register may be inspected at the Licensing
Authority Rochford District Council, 3-19 South Street,
Rochford, Essex SS4 1BW between 9.00am and 4.00pm
(Monday to Friday except public holidays) or on the
Authority's website at: www.rochford.gov.uk.

Any representations by a responsible authority or
interested party must be made in writing to the above
address by 12th March 2013.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false
statement in connection with an application punishable on
summary conviction by a maximum fine of £5,000.

Public Notices

**THE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL
(MILTON AREA PARKING MANAGEMENT SCHEME (ZONE M))
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS, PARKING PLACES AND PERMIT PARKING ZONE ORDER 2012)**

(Amendment No. 1) Order 2013

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Southend-on-Sea Borough Council proposes to make the above Order
under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 53 (and part IV of Schedule 9) of the Road Traffic Regulation
Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with
the Chief Officer of Police in accordance to Part III of Schedule 9 to the act of 1984 as amended by Part 6 of the
Traffic Management Act 2004.

The effect of which will amend the above-mentioned Order, by the adding and deleting of the items listed in
the tables below and minor amendments to the Preamble of the Order

Existing bays to become shared residents permit parking places and pay and display parking bays:

Road Name	Length
Ashburnham Road	The south-west side From a point 10.2 metres north-west of the north-western kerbline of Queens Road north-westwards to a point 9.0 metres south-east of the north-western most boundary of 56 Queens Road.

**Introduce new additional road to become shared residents permit parking places and pay and
display parking bays.**

Road Name	Length
Queens Road	The north-east side From a point 12 metres south-west of the extended south-west kerbline of Ashburnham Road south-westwards to a point 12 metres north-east of the north-eastern kerbline of Princes Street.

Introduce new amended length of no waiting restriction at any time

Road Name	Length
Queens Road	(b) North-east side (iii) From the boundary of the Central Area Controlled Parking Zone south-westwards to a point 12 metres south-west of the extended south-west kerbline of Ashburnham Road. (iv) From a point 12 metres north-east of the north-eastern kerbline of Princes Street south-westwards to a point 10 metres south-west of the extended kerbline of Park Street.

REVOCATIONS

SCHEDULE 1 ITEM 0975 B (II)

SCHEDULE 2 ITEM 10172

A copy of the proposed Order, a map showing the roads to which the Order relates and a statement of the
Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected at the Contact Centre on the ground floor
of the Civic Centre (address below) during normal office hours and on the Council's website.

Any representations to the proposals, together with the grounds on which they are made, must be sent in writing to
the **Corporate Director of Enterprise Tourism & the Environment and marked for the attention of the
Traffic Management & Road Safety Team at the address below by no later than 20th March 2013.**

All written representations received concerning Traffic Regulation Orders are public documents that may be
inspected by any person on demand.

R. Tinlin,

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6ER

Dated: 27 February 2013

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

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DOORS, 32, various sizes, £30.
Tel 01277 810854.

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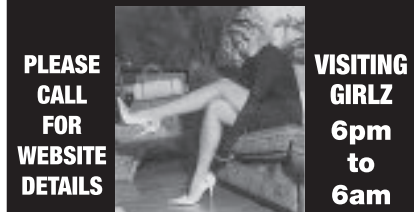
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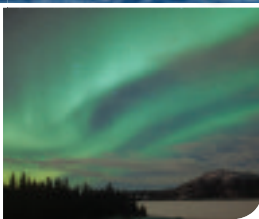
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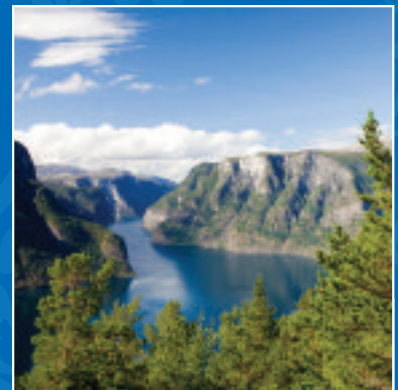
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PLAIN SAILING FOR SOUTHEND

Rugby

Southend 48 Clifton 24

Southend were able to field one of their strongest sides of the season for their rearranged National 2 game against Clifton.

The return to the team of James Armstrong and Adam Ferrier bolstered the front row giving the pack more stability and allowing scrum half Sam Arnott more time for his distribution.

The importance of the game reflected a rather frantic start before Southend settled into a rhythm that Clifton found difficult to cope with. But it was not before they scored the first try of the game taking them into an early 5 point lead.

Not deterred Southend fought back and soon replied with a typical darting finish by Sam Arnott who dived over in the corner. Frost missed the difficult conversion attempt against the wind but the score moved to 5-5.

The next twenty minutes saw Southend kicking away possession with the ball holding up against the wind allowing the Clifton receivers plenty of time to steady themselves for the catch. But it was all Southend with play mainly confined to the Clifton end of the field. Eventually Southend won a penalty that led to one of the strangest tries that your scribe has ever seen.

Andrew Frost elected to try and kick the points. His effort against the stiff swirling breeze started right of the posts and then hooked wildly left. Missing the left hand post by some distance the ball dipped sharply catching the watching Clifton players by surprise. It hit one of them on the shoulder and bounced away and into the grateful arms of Chris Vaughan who was racing forward in support of the kick. He touched down smartly.

This time Frost's conversion kick sailed between the posts and Southend moved into a 12-5 lead.

Southend gathered the ball from the re-start and launched another attack. Keeping the ball in hand this time, they raced forward exchanging passes until



TRY: Celebration after Harry Hudson scores

the ball ended in the hands of the ever improving Harry Hudson who charged forward to score in the near corner. Frost was unlucky with his difficult kick but Southend moved on to 17-5.

Frost was successful with a penalty kick just before halftime, it took Southend into the break with a much deserved 20-5 lead.

With the wind now behind them Southend resumed their kicking game this time with much more success. The Clifton receivers found it difficult to judge the flight of the ball causing fumbles and breakdowns that allowed Southend to utilise their much improved turnover skills.

With Adam Ferrier's accurate throw ins continuing to pay dividends Southend were in the ascendancy and forcing Clifton back. Another souring kick saw fly half Bradley Burr bravely jump and snatch the ball out of the sky. It was swiftly moved across the field to speedster Mark Billings who raced forward over the line, he cut inside and touched down under the posts for an easy conversion from Frost. 27-5.

The next ten minutes saw a try fest from Southend. The first from Bradley Burr who burst through and scored. Another conversion from Frost. 34-5.

The next from the ever popular Andrew McClintock. Using his height, weight and power he scored a typical forwards try, again converted by Frost. 41-5.

Then one from Danny Cleare, on for Mike Stanley. Frost continued his good work and converted again. 48-5.

With only sixty six minutes gone and Southend out of sight, Ferrier, Bailey, Green and Arnott left the field to be replaced by Keenan, Strachan, Cook and Daly respectively. The team seemed to lose its shape and were made to pay as Clifton ran in three tries during the last ten minutes. Converting two of them it took the final score to 48-24 and they took a bonus point back up the M4 to Bristol.

Southend's five point bonus win took them to within four points of 13th. placed Lydney with two games in hand. They need to continue with their good form when they welcome Bournemouth to Warners Park next Saturday.



SCORER: Britt Assombalonga

Late winner stops the rot for Shrimpers

A late winner by Britt Assombalonga sealed a successful away trip to Wycombe for Southend United at the weekend and gave the Shrimpers their first win in eight games.

Ahead of Tuesday's game away

Southend United

to struggling Barnet, they were sitting just outside the npower League 2 playoff zone in eight place on 50 points – two points behind seventh place Exeter.

Matt takes the mountain to the masses Star and sisters are stars

Within the mountainboarding community every member is an all-terrain hero, pushing personal bests, innovating style and technique.

But there is a chosen one to take mountainboarding into the global arena – Rayleigh's Matt Brind.

Matt is currently studying Maths at the University of Surrey with a view to becoming a teacher in maths or physics.

A Pro Rider for many years with MBS, Matt is World Freestyle Champion and four times ATBA-UK Champion, excelling in all

forms of mountainboarding - Boarder X, Freestyle and Downhill.

Matt is keen to promote mountainboarding as an accessible sport, regularly takes part in demo shows including a demo at Bestival and has appeared on television shows for Sky and the BBC.

He has recently joined the Nitro Circus Live Tour, riding in Europe and New Zealand.

Nitro Circus is a platform for the world's greatest action sports athletes and Matt is the first mountainboarder to join the tour.



HIGH FLYER: Matt Brind

Martial Arts

On Sunday February 24, four young Tang Soo Do students travelled to Somerset.

Tom, from Canvey Island, who trains with Emma Elmes walked away with gold in forms 13 and under and gold in forms 18 and under. He then gained Gold in extreme freestyle weapons 13 and under and bronze in 18 and under extreme free style weapons.

Sisters Fox, River and Star Perry joined Tom in their first freestyle comp. They train with Andy England and Steven Perry in traditional Japanese style Wado ryu and started training with Emma at her Dojo on Canvey Island in freestyle weapons seven months ago.



Due to it being their first comp they entered under 13s Japanese katas, and weapons doing Bo.

Star aged six took gold in both and Fox took silver in kata and bronze in Bo.

River received Bronze in kata and silver in Bo.

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Deadline for copy is Monday 11am**

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* 3.58" was average loss after 12 sessions studies show

THE rapidinchloss CLINIC

One of our success stories...



Who: Leslie Carey, 39

Where: The Rapid Inch Loss Clinic Nuneaton

When: 6 Weeks, June 2011

What Happened: Leslie had Ultrasonic Liposuction on her stomach and inner thigh but only lost $\frac{3}{4}$ inch after 1st visit. She then lost 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches after her 2nd visit, before losing 16 inches in total over the course of her therapy.

How: We focussed Ultrasonic Liposuction on Leslie's inner thigh and stomach once a week (1 session on each area) for 6 weeks. After her 1st session Leslie ate take away food on 4 of the evenings, as well as drinking several pints of beer most nights. This resulted in slow progress. However, after only losing $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in week 1, Leslie decided to drink a little more moderately, ate more balanced meals and as a result she then lost 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches between her 2nd & 3rd treatments. Leslie then resolved to adjust her lifestyle, she started eating & drinking in moderation, while making an effort to be more active generally. Leslie went on to lose 16 inches in total over her course which took in 12 sessions each on her stomach & inner thighs.

Why was Ultrasonic Liposuction Needed: Leslie has a demanding job as a director of an engineering firm, this lead to Leslie having a poor diet of take away food & beer, with little activity in her daily life due to a lack of time. Leslie arrived for her 1st session as a size 16, standing at 5' 6" tall

Where are they now: After achieving her target size and shape Leslie had lost 16 inches from her stomach and inner thigh. After completing her course and armed with her improved lifestyle and body shape Leslie felt inspired to take up Exercise! She began walking 3 evenings a week and therefore needed no more sessions to maintain her new size and shape!

To find out more please visit www.rapidinchloss.co.uk

To talk to an adviser please call **0207 127 0727** today

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Sessions consist of a full consultation before an ultrasonic massage given privately by a qualified and experienced female consultant. A minimum of 72 hours are left between sessions to maximise results.



"This Inch loss programme worked for me. It can work for you, too!"
Leslie, 39, lost 16 inches in just 12 sessions! "

The best thing was I didn't need a strict diet. Although, losing all those Inches has encouraged me to live a healthier lifestyle – I'd never go back to my old body shape."

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To talk to an adviser call **0207 127 0727** today